G.A.R.

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

S.U.V.C.W.

THE CLARION CALL

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

1866 VOLUME No. 4 ISSUE No. 2 October 2004 1881

123rd National Encampment

Contributed by Kevin Tucker, Dept. JVC and Bill Ryerson, PDC

Cedar Rapids, Iowa: It was an early rise on Wednesday, August 11th for the delegates to the National Encampment which took place August 12th through August 14th 2004. PDC Bill Ryerson was at Logan Airport at 5:30 a.m. and found DSVC Perley Mellor and Dept. GAR Highway Officer Frank Haley and his wife already there. PDC Ryerson's grandson, Nicholas Eastman, the youngest delegate to the National at 14 years also made the trip. The department officers were accompanied by David Proper, PDC of New Hampshire and Richard Lufkin of Providence, Rhode Island. Arriving just before boarding time was DC John Bates, DJVC Kevin Tucker, as well as Department Color Bearer Richard Eccleston and Richard Eccelston Jr. down from Manchester, NH. After a two hour flight to Chicago and a forty minute hop down to Cedar Rapids, the delegation arrived at the Collins Plaza Hotel to join up with other delegates, Department Historian Dean Sargent, PDC Bob Knight with his aide– Steve Twining. The last delegate, Ken Burns arrived after the long drive from Massachusetts. The weather in Iowa was nippy with the temperature at 53 degrees and a northerly wind resulting in the purchase of sweatshirts and jackets. The local geography was corn, corn, and more corn to be seen and the weather kept on the cool side– dipping to a record low of 41 degrees on Saturday morning. Friday was a busy day with morning and afternoon business sessions followed by an evening Campfire and some good singing by local groups. Saturday morning wrapped up the business sessions and after lunch the elections were held. Of interest to PDC Bill Ryerson were positions on the Council of Administration which was opened to five elective spots. PDC Ryerson convinced to take a shot at the Council came up short. PDC Ryerson advises that anyone who is considering a run at a national office to start campaigning at least a year in advance as "deals are made and positions sown up way ahead" of the National Encampment.

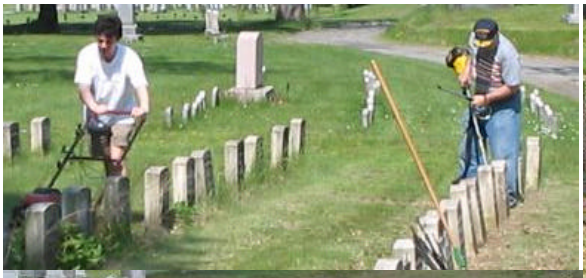
According to DJVC Tucker a number of resolutions were submitted. One included removing the National Quartermaster as a voting member of the National Council of Administration, and making his office an appointed one., rather than elected. This was defeated. Another resolution was to expand the National Council of Administration from three to five members. This was passed. However, prior to final passage, an amendment proposed by DJVC Tucker was adopted, which provided that the National Council on Administration members be elected by a plurality, rather than a majority vote. This would give smaller Departments a better chance at having their candidates elected, as majority voting favors the larger Departments. This also brings the election process for the National Council of Administration into alignment with the Department Council election process. A third resolution proposed that kepis worn at SUVCW meetings be decorated with standardized insignia, including denotation of rank within the organization, was defeated, as was a resolution from the Department of Maine which would have lowered the Per Capita dues on all members. (Continued on page 2) (See Election Results on page 2)

(Continued from page 1) This year's trip to the National Encampment was exciting and entertaining and all members of the Department delegation will attempt to bring the same energy and sense of camaraderie in their daily responsibilities with the Department in the coming year. Next year's National Encampment will be held August 3rd through 7th at the Crown Plaza in Nashua, New Hampshire. The Department looks forward to assisting our Brothers in the Granite State in their efforts to organize an outstanding National Encampment. It is hoped that members of the Department will volunteer their time and manpower to the Department of New Hampshire as needed, and that we make every effort to take advantage of the rare opportunity of having a National Encampment in our own "back yard" by fielding the maximum number of Delegates allotted to our Department next year.

National Encampment Election Results

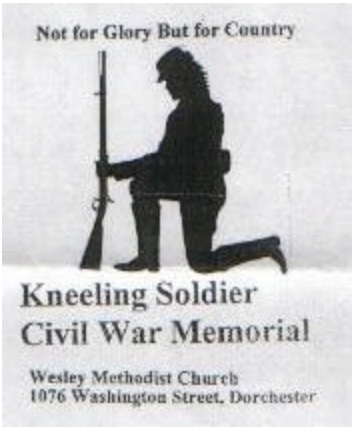
Cedar Rapids, Iowa: The Election of National Officers took place on Saturday August 14,2004 and Steve Michaels became the first Wisconsinite in the history of the organization to be elected National Commander-in-Chief. Don Darby of Ohio was unopposed for Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, was Jim Paul of Michigan, for the Junior Vice Commanders' position. Ed Krieser, PCinC, of Indiana decided not to run for a second term as National Secretary, and unopposed candidate Michael Bennett, PDC, of New York was elected to the post. National Treasurer Max Newman of Michigan was unopposed for reelection. Bud Atkinson, PCinC of Pennsylvania decided to step down after 15 years as National Quartermaster. Danny Wheeler, PCinC of New York who also ran unopposed was elected to take over the post. With the expansion of the National Council of Administration, there were 3 council seats up for election this year, two 3-year seats and one 2-year seat, (in order that future elections would include the open 3-year seats) Five men were nominated for the three seats. National Graves Registration Officer Leo Kennedy, PDC of Rhode Island was elected to fill the 3-year seat on the Council of Administration, Brad Schall, PDC of California won the second, followed by Char-

"Pictures are worth 1,000 words" If your camp has photos of members doing various activities and would like to share them with the rest of the department, please submit them to the Clarion Call Editor. Upon request all photos will be mailed back.



Worcester, MA: Members of Willie Grout Camp #25 met to plant 143 flowers on the grave sites of Civil War Veterans buried in the G.A.R. Lot in Hope Cemetery in Worcester. Annually the camp meets to mow, rake and clean up the lot. In celebration of the cemeteries 150th anniversary the camp restored the 143 flag holders and planted vibrant flowers.

Civil War Tablet Rededicated at the Wesley Church



Dorchester, MA In July 2004, Brother Edward Coyne of Camp 104 was visiting with Reverend Charlotte L. Pidgen-Randolph at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Dorchester when he was informed of a re-dedication being planned. The re-dedication was for a marble tablet that is 6 feet by 8 feet and contains "the names of fifty-two soldiers from Dorchester and Milton who were among the 620,000 men who died in our nation's struggle for a new birth of freedom." The soldiers were memorialized on the tablet which was located at the Wesley Methodist Church. The church was demolished and rebuilt in 1967. The plague itself was removed but went missing for more than thirty years when it was rediscovered on Cape Cod.

Of the soldiers on the plague, 7 were killed, 7 wounded, and 12 captured. 29 of the 52 later became members of the Grand Army of the Republic.

On September 26, 2004, members of the S.U.V.C.W. attended the re-dedication ceremony that included remarks by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. Also participating in the ceremony was President Abraham Lincoln portrayed by George Cheevers, Company A 54th Massachusetts, members of the 7th and 15th Massachusetts and most notably a regiment formed in Dorchester, the 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry also known as the "Boston Volunteers". Immediately following the ceremony, those in attendance viewed the marble monument up close along with a unique granite monument of a "Kneeling Civil War Soldier" adjacent the tablet. The tablet itself rests on the ground level to prevent future vandalism.

A special thanks goes out to the combine efforts of Reverend Charlotte Pidgen-Randolph, Pastor of Wesley Methodist Church and Fred Wexler, President of the Cape Cod Civil War Roundtable in the safe return and honorable display of the tablet. As with any monument/memorial to the Civil War Soldier, "It is the duty of the army of the living to HONOR, the army of the dead"…..

Boy Scouts and S.U.V.C.W. team up to Restore Flag Holders

Uxbridge, MA: On September 8,2004, Commander Roy L. Henry, of A.A. Sherman Camp #18 presented six Camp 18 appreciation certificates to six members of Boy Scout Troop 25 of Uxbridge, MA. The Boys Scouts helped clean and restore Prospect and St. Mary's cemeteries which are the two largest cemeteries in Uxbridge. In addition to clean up, the scouts removed all of the G.A.R. 25 Grave Markers/Flag Holders, scraped them clean and spray painted them to restore their appearance. Each scout is a candidate for Eagle Scout and Commander Henry will present S.U.V.C.W. Eagle Scout Certificates to them at their initiation ceremony.

Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor

Wilmon W. Blackmar Co H 1st West Virginia Cavalry

Born July 25, 1841 in Bristol, PA
Died July 16,1905

Buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery, **Dorchester, MA**
Lt. Blackmar earned his "Congressional Medal of Honor" during the Battle of Five Forks, VA on 1 April 1865
At a critical stage in the battle, Lt. Blackmar took the initiative and without orders successfully advanced on the enemy.

Gardner C. Hawkins Co E 3rd Vermont Infantry

Born on February 11,1846 in Pomfert, Vermont,
Died on December 15,1913
Buried in Lindenwood Cemetery, **Stoneham, MA**
Lt. Hawkins earned his "Congressional Medal of Honor" during the Battle of Petersburg, VA on 2 April 1865
While his unit was pinned down by well directed enemy fire, Lt. Hawkins got up in front of his unit and motivated them by his words and brave actions and although dangerously wounded in the process he refused to leave the field until the enemy position was taken.

David Casey Co C 25th Massachusetts Infantry

Born in 1842 in Ireland
Died January 4, 1893
Buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery, **Northbridge, MA**
Private Casey earned his "Congressional Medal of Honor" during the Battle of Cold Harbor, VA on June 3, 1864. Two color bearers had been shot dead, one right after the other, the last one far ahead of Private Casey's regiment but near the enemy's line. Private Casey rushed forward and under heavy fire removed the colors from the dead body of its last bearer, secured it and returned it to the Union lines.

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CIVIL WAR WEEKEND
October 16-17,2004
Dartmouth, Massachusetts

A Civil War Weekend to honor Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient David Lewis Gifford by dedicating the newest Civil War monument/memorial in the state will take place at the Dartmouth Middle School located on Slocum Road. The event will include: Civil War Encampment, Living History Demonstrations, Unveiling and Dedication of the Pvt. Gifford Statue, Plus much more!
Saturday October 16th 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Living History)
Sunday October 17th 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Living History)
Sunday October 17th 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Parade and Dedication Ceremony)

Members are encouraged to attend Depart. Meetings:

Ever wonder what goes on at a department meeting? What are the elected Department Officers doing? By attending department meetings, you can find out first hand about the latest in what's being discussed. The next Department meeting is scheduled for Sat. October 23,2004, at 2 p.m. and will be held at the Bickford's Restaurant on Lincoln Street in Worcester, Massachusetts.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR CORNER

By George Maple Jr. Dept. Patriotic Instructor
FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CAMP'S NAMESAKE

Greetings Brothers,
Do you know your Camp's ancestry? What do you know about your Camp's namesake? Do you know the history of the G.A.R. post that preceded your Sons of Union Veterans camp? I urge the camps to send away for the records of their camp and post namesakes. Do you know your Brother's ancestry? Do you have your own ancestor's records. You can order these records online or send for them. Go to http://www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs/. If you have no web access, call me @ 508-410-5488 and I will print out a copy of the form and send it to you. When you get the records, share them with your brothers at the a meeting after the Camp Patriotic Instructor has said his piece. You can also get information fro www.civilwardata.com. If you don't want to pay for the subscription, email me @ gmaplejr@25thmass.org and I can send

Civil War Term: SHODDY, An inferior wool cloth used in making uniforms. Became used to describe inferior government equipment.

SOLDIERS & PRESIDENTS

Five U.S. Presidents served as soldiers in the Civil War and used their combat leadership experience on the battlefield to wound up in the Oval Office in the White House.

Ulysses S. Grant, consistently won battles regardless of the cost. Using the army rather than saving it, ended the war sooner than it would have ended. Although a failure at other venues in life, as a general he was perfectly suited. Unfortunately as a president he was not considered one of the best.

Rutherford B. Hayes, our 19th president, was a colonel in the 23rd Ohio Infantry Regiment, a unit that also produced future president William McKinley. Hayes was a very impressive leader on the battlefield. He had started his military service as a major and was wounded four times during the war while advancing to the rank of brigadier general. As president he was often referred to as "His Fraudulency the President" because he had less popular votes than his opponent.

James A. Garfield, our 20th president, was chief of staff to Union General William Rosecrans. During the Battle of Chickamauga, he advised his superior to go with the retreating army back to Chattanooga. Because Rosecrans took his advice, and ultimately left many soldiers behind on the field his reputation as ruined and he was dismissed from the army. Garfield resigned two months later and served in Congress for the rest of the war. He was assassinated within four months of becoming president.

Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd president, was a brevet brigadier general during the war. He spent most of his service behind the lines assigned to garrison duty. Unfortunately for Harrison, he was disliked by his soldiers.

William McKinley enlisted as a private when he was 18 years old and served in the 23rd Ohio Infantry Regiment. The 23rd also produced future president Rutherford B. Hayes. McKinley was a commissary sergeant at the Battle of Antietam and ended the war as a major. He became our 25th president. In 1901, when McKinley was assassinated in office, his Vice President, Theodore Roosevelt became president.

RERUITING CAN BE EDUCATIONAL

New Bedford, MA: On August 15,2004, Department Officers George Maple and Rey Rodriguez traveled to New Bedford's Fort Taber. During the course of the re-enactments/living history, both officers spoke to dozens of people and handed out information about the organization. By educating those about the Sons of Union Veterans and the Grand Army of the Republic, a "seed" has been planted in New Bedford. Other members of the organization are encouraged to attend such events and educate the public about our organization. The SUVCW is a brotherhood, feel free to contact brothers from other camps to help with educating the public about our organization. Growth of any one camp, or creations of new camps, benefits everyone.

MY CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR
WILLIAM COHEN
Co B 1st New York Volunteer Infantry

By Edward P. Coyne, Camp 104

William Cohen was born in London, England in 1842. He came to this country sometime after that date. He enlisted in the 1st New York Infantry, Company B as a private on January 3,1862, at the age of 20 in New York City, to serve the un-expired term of the regiment. The commanding officer of his 3rd Corps Division was General Phillip Kearney, who chose the red lozenge (diamond) as the identifying emblem for the 1st Division. William was sent to Fortress Monroe with over 300 enlistees for the regiment. He was active at the battle of the Monitor and Merrimack, the Peninsula Campaign, Fair Oakes, Oak Grove, Peach Orchard, Savage Station, White Oak Swamp, Glendale, and Malvern Hill, battle of 2nd Bull Run, Groveton, and Chantilly, then the defense of Washington, D.C., the Battle of Fredericksburg, the "Mud March" and the Battle of Chancellorsville. He was mustered out in New York City, with his regiment on May 25,1863. He drifted for a while and in 1874 was working as a store clerk in Middleton, Connecticut. In 1877 he met the young widow Lillian (Loomis) Bacon, and in 1878 they were married at the South Congregational Church in Middleton. They lived in Westchester, New Haven and Putnam, Connecticut until 1885 when they settled in Chelsea, Massachusetts. They had a total of ten children of which my father Harry, was the sixth. The male children's' surnames were changed from Cohen to Coyne by the time they were two years of age. In the early 1920's William was a resident of the Chelsea Old Soldiers Home and died there in 1924. He is buried in the Soldiers Home Lot in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett, Massachusetts. The Old Soldiers Home was built by the G.A.R. The 1st Division of the 3rd Corps, Army of the Potomac, has the distinction of being the first emblem of recognition, the red lozenge, often referred to as a diamond or patch was chosen by General Phillip Kearney, so he could recognize his officers in the field. They were ordered by him to apply this emblem to the side of their headgear and also on the front of their coat. It was not long afterwards that the private soldier started to wear it also. It was not long after that all the Corps of the Army of the Poto-

Did you know: The unit of organization for the field artillery was the battery. A typical battery was made up of four to six cannons. Field Artillery was commonly referred to as light artillery. There were two types: mounted and horse artillery. Mounted meant that only the driver and officers were mounted and they followed an infantry unit. Horse artillery accompanied cavalry in which everyone was mounted and was often referred to as a "Flying battery." (Note: Photo by DC John Bates at Gettysburg, PA)

History of the Grand Army of the Republic Highway US 6

Submitted by Frank Haley, Camp 18, Dept. G.A.R.H.O.

Chapter 19 Acts of 1937 of General Laws of Massachusetts reads as follows: "That portion of the highway known as "U.S. Route 6" which begins in the town of Provincetown and extends to the boundary line between the Commonwealth and the state of Rhode Island shall hereafter be designated and known as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway." Approved February 12, 1937.

Prior to 1926, U.S. Route 6 was known in part as the Midland Trail Roadway. In the late 1920's and the early 1930's it was known also as the Roosevelt Highway, after President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1926, the American Association of State Highway Officials adopted the U.S. numbering system for making the nation's main Interstate Highways.

On October 9, 1925, the Joint Board on Interstate Highways recommended that the U.S. Highway system be numbered. The routes running north to south would have odd numbers and the routes running east to west would have even numbers. One of the routes proposed was U.S. 6. Which would run from Provincetown, MA to Brewster, New York. Because the Highways were owned by the states, the Secretary of Agriculture submitted the proposal to the American Association of State Highway Officials for approval. By the time the AASHO approved the proposal, U.S. Route 6 had changed. The new route started in Provincetown and ended in Erie, Pennsylvania. The route actually came to a halt on the New York, Connecticut border, and resumed at Kingston, New York. After many changes, the route received transcontinental status on June 21, 1937 running between Provincetown, MA and ending at New Beach Circle in Long Beach, CA. At that time, Route 6 was the longest U.S. Route in the country. The Grand Army of the Republic Highway Route 6 lost its transcontinental status in 1965 when the AASHO approved a request from California to end the historic highway at the town of Bishop. This move made U.S. Route 20 the longest route in the country.

U.S. Army Major William L. Anderson Jr., of Massachusetts, conceived the idea of designating U.S. Route 6 the Grand Army of the Republic Highway to honor the Union forces during the Civil War. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War began to promote his idea in April of 1934. Because the highway was owned by two states, SUVCW asked each state to act on the proposal. The first state to act was Massachusetts in 1937.

The formal dedication of the Grand Army of the Republic Highway took place on May 3, 1953 in Long Beach, California. The occasion was a National Encampment of the SUVCW and four allied orders. The five allied orders held their own meetings, but came together for the dedication at the Municipal Auditorium. Although the plaque has been moved several times, it is now located at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center.

Department G.A.R. Highway Officer asks for your assistance:

If you or your family happen to be traveling on US Route 6 in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, see if you can locate the G.A.R. Highway Identification Signs and let the G.A.R. Highway Officer know their condition. As G.A.R. Highway Officer, Brother Frank Haley has taken on the mission to replace missing or damaged signs.

The highway begins in Provincetown and runs along the cape. The signs are located along Rte 6 in the eastbound, westbound lanes as well as in following communities: Truro (3), Wellfleet (3), Eastham (3), Orleans (3), Brewster (1), Dennis (3), Yarmouth (1), Barnstable (5), Sandwich (4), Bourne (2), Wareham (1), Mattapoisett (1), Fairhaven (1), New Bedford intersection Commonwealth Ave, Somerset (2), Swansea (1), and Seekonk (1)
Contact information for the G.A.R. Highway Officer can be found on the Department Website at www.suvmass.org

SHOW YOUR TRUE COLORS!

S.U.V.C.W. BUMPER STICKERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TO REPLACE MISSING OR DAMAGED GRAVE MARKERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

The 13" x 3.5" S.U.V.C.W. Bumper Sticker are $3.00 each plus postage:

Postage: 1 OR 2 bumper stickers: $.50 3 to 6: $.60 7 to 11: $.85 12 to 15: $1.10

Send Only a Check or Money Order,

Payable to

"The Dept. of Mass, S.U.V.C.W."

Mail your order to:

Kevin Tucker, DJVC
Dept. of Mass. S.U.V.C.W.
58 Forest Street
Wakefield, MA 01880

G.A.R. Grave Flag Markers recovered by Brotherhood!

Candia, New Hampshire : Camp 104 Brother Ed Coyne was in Hollis, New Hampshire attending a flea market when he noticed a vendor selling G.A.R. Post 79 grave markers. Brother Coyne informed the vendor that it was illegal to sell them. Camp 18 Brother Frank Haley notified the Hollis Flea Market and the Department of New Hampshire. As a result the vendor then tried to unload them on Ebay. As it turned out, the Post 79 flag holders were stolen from a cemetery in Candia, NH. New Hampshire Camp 5 Commander Dan Meehan had recovered 30 of them. Brother Meehan was informed by Camp 25 Brother Rey Rodriguez that the vendor had 8 of them on Ebay. Ebay confirmed that that such items could not be listed. It is illegal in most states to sell or attempt to sell, transfer or dispose of any gravestone, or marker "placed or designed for any memorial to the dead". With a two pronged attack from Department of New Hampshire and Massachusetts Brothers, the sale was ended. Bidders were informed that the property was stolen and belonged on the graves of Civil War Veterans. By using both legal channels, first by informing the seller and bidder of the unlawful act and second by reporting the violation to Ebay success was accomplished this time. Other markers are sure to be sold on Ebay and members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are asked to stop the sale in their tracks. By reporting the violation to Ebay the sale can be stopped but only if done in a timely manner. Also, by informing the seller and bidders some good can come out of it. Brother Rodriguez was able to convince one seller who did not know where they came from to send them postage paid to Massachusetts. Both markers are now at the grave sites of two G.A.R. Post 43 members who did not have one. In the end through the efforts of working together, the strong brotherhood enabled the recovery of such invaluable property.

N.E.R.A MEETING NOTICE: The Department of Connecticut SUVCW and Auxiliary are hosting the fall New England Regional Association, SUVCW on **Saturday**, **October 16, 2004** at 9:30 A.M. at the G.A.R. Hall, Park Place, Rockville, CT.

The Last Word

With the 125th National Encampment being held in Nashua New Hampshire, members of the Dept. of Massachusetts can join forces with our brothers in the Dept. of New Hampshire, and show the rest of the nation that New England's unity in our organization is perpetual.

G.A.R.

1866

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VISIT THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS WEBSITE AT:

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